

Please replace the following original claims with a clean copy of said claims as amended. A marked-up version of said amended claims is provided on a separate sheet attached hereto along with a clean set of pending claims.

- A1
23. (Once amended) An esterase produced by a method comprising the steps of:
- (a) transforming a suitable microbial host cell with a vector comprising,
 - (i) a first DNA encoding an esterase comprising an amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 28 or SEQ ID NO: 26, or
 - (ii) a second DNA capable of hybridizing under standard stringency conditions with a DNA comprising at least 400 nucleotides of the DNA sequence illustrated in SEQ ID NO: 29, wherein the second DNA encodes a protein having esterolytic activity;
 - (b) cultivating said transformed host cell under conditions suitable for said host cell to produce an esterase; and
 - (c) separating the produced esterase from said host cell.

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25. (Once amended) A feed supplement comprising the esterase produced by the method according to claim 23.

26. (Once amended) A process of treating fabric, yarn, or textiles comprising contacting said fabric, yarn or textile with the esterase produced according to claim 23.

27. (Once amended) An isolated esterase comprising the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 28 or SEQ ID NO: 26.

28. (Once amended) The isolated esterase according to claim 27, wherein said esterase is from a filamentous fungus, bacteria or yeast.

29. (Once amended) The isolated esterase according to claim 27, wherein said esterase is derived from *Aspergillus*.

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CONT.

30.(Once amended) The isolated esterase according to claim 29, wherein said esterase is derived from *Aspergillus niger*.

Please add the following new claims.

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33. An isolated esterase derived from *Aspergillus* having a molecular weight about 38kD as measured by SDS-PAGE.

34. The esterase of claim 27 having the amino acid sequence disclosed in SEQ ID NO: 28.

35. The method according to claim 23, wherein the host cell is selected from the group consisting of *Bacillus spp.*, *Trichoderma spp.*, and *Aspergillus spp.*

36. The method according to claim 35, wherein the host cell is *Aspergillus niger*.

37. The method according to claim 35, wherein the host cell is a *Bacillus*.

38. An animal feed comprising the esterase of claim 27.

39. A process of treating a fabric, yarn or textile comprising contacting said fabric, yarn or textile with the esterase of claim 27.